

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1-11 as follows. All claims in the application are being reproduced below in accordance with current U.S. Patent and Trademark Office requirements.

1. (Currently Amended) A sheet folding apparatus for folding ~~the a~~ sheet by nipping and conveying ~~a~~ the sheet by a pair of folding rollers ~~and~~, wherein at least one of the pair of folding rollers has a single large-diameter portion and small-diameter portions at both sides of the large-diameter portion, and the large-diameter portion is provided within a convey range in a sheet width direction of a minimum size sheet foldable in the sheet folding apparatus portion along an axis thereof.

2. (Currently Amended) A sheet folding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~a~~ the single large-diameter portion ~~for nipping and conveying the sheet~~ is provided at a sheet convey center portion of the roller.

3. (Currently Amended) A sheet folding apparatus according to claim 2, wherein ~~the large-diameter portion is provided at the sheet convey center portion such that a width of the single large-diameter portion in the axis direction, which is provided at the sheet convey center portion of the folding roller~~ is substantially $\frac{1}{2}$ of a minimum width of a sheet size foldable in the sheet folding apparatus.

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4. (Currently Amended) A sheet folding apparatus according to claim 3,
wherein the single large-diameter portion of the roller is provided outside a width positioned
outside a movable range of a maximum-size sheet foldable in the foldable apparatus.

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5. (Currently Amended) A sheet folding apparatus according to claim 1,
one of said
wherein a predetermined gap is formed at a small diameter portion ⁵between the rollers at a
convey nip between the pair of folding rollers.

6. (Currently Amended) A sheet folding apparatus according to claim 4,
wherein a predetermined gap is formed at the small diameter portion ⁵between the roller at a
convey nip between the pair of folding rollers.

7. (Currently Amended) A sheet folding apparatus according to claim 5,
wherein the predetermined gap formed between the pair of folding rollers is set smaller than a
thickness of three sheets conveyed to the nip.

8. (Currently Amended) A sheet folding apparatus according to claim 6,
wherein the predetermined gap formed between the pair of folding rollers is set smaller than a
thickness of three sheets conveyed to the nip.

9. (Currently Amended) A sheet folding apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein the single large-diameter portion has a taper section of the roller is tapered.

Cont

10. (Currently Amended) A sheet folding apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the large-diameter portion of the roller includes has a taper section.

Alt

11. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus having image forming means for forming an image on a sheet, sheet conveying means for conveying the sheet on which the image is formed by said image forming means, and a sheet folding apparatus for folding the conveyed sheet, the sheet folding apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 10 processing means for folding the conveyed sheet, including a sheet folding apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 10 as said sheet folding processing means.
